



Press Release

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SCOTT BLACKSTOCK SELECTED GEORGIA'S 2009 SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Scott Blackstock of Thomaston was selected the SBA Small Business Person of the Year for Georgia by a three-judge panel earlier this year. He is president and owner of S.S. Blackstock Inc., which operates 11 Tidal Wave express car washes, with a 12th location set to open in late 2009 in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

A 1979 graduate of Georgia Tech, Blackstock operated a tire and auto repair business in Thomaston for 20 years before he opened his first car wash location in Riverdale in 2003. Since the first unit opened, Blackstock's Tidal Wave business has grown to nearly 100 full and part-time employees and annual sales of more than \$6 million.

Blackstock was nominated for his award by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in Columbus. He and other small business owners and supporters were recognized at the SBA annual Awards Luncheon on April 28 in Atlanta. The event was sponsored by the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle, a group of active SBA lenders in the state.

Three SBA guaranteed 504 Development Loans have helped finance the expansion of his Tidal Wave car wash sites. With adequate financing, Blackstock's car washes have posted solid sales & profits with sales going from \$271,000 in 2004 to over \$6.5 million in 2007.

Blackstock entered the first Incubator without Walls (iWOW) management class (2006-2007) at the Small Business Development Center in Columbus, Georgia. As part of the program, he graduated from the SBDC's "FastTrac" Growth Venture and HyperGrow Programs. These programs provide entrepreneurs, like Blackstock, with new skills and training to successfully manage rapidly growing companies.

The company uses modern water-reclamation methods to minimize the impact on community water use. Rainwater is captured at many of the sites for reuse. Most of the water used in these car washes is funneled into tanks where it is cleaned, pumped and used again. Environmental-friendly chemicals are also used in the wash process.

Like many small businesses, Blackstock's car washes have suffered from the economic downturn. As net profit went down in 2008, Blackstock moved to reduce debt, cut overhead and increase his company's equity position. Six new Tidal Wave locations were opened in 2008. But this year, the company plans to open two.

With his impressive track record, Blackstock was asked to speak at the International Car Wash Association (ICA) convention seminars in Las Vegas. The Georgia Department of Economic Development invited him to speak on the subject of “Serial Entrepreneurship” at Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue’s 2006 Summit on Entrepreneurship.

Over the past few years, Blackstock and Tidal Wave have contributed in excess of \$150,000 to charities focusing on programs to benefit special needs children and adults. In addition, Blackstock is active with numerous civic, church and professional organizations.

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